

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-13 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3203

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: BUU- BERGERON MEETING - PARIS, SEPTEMBER 11

1. TRAN-QUOC-BUU, PRESIDENT OF VIETNAMESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CVT), DURING RECENT TRANSIT PARIS, MET WITH FORCE OUVRIERE SECRETARY GENERAL ANDRE BERGERON SEPTEMBER 11.

2. ACCORDING TO FO PRESS RELEASE ON MEETING WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED BY AFP ON 12 SEPT., BUU DESCRIBED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND NEW DIFFICULTIES FACING FREE TRADE UNIONS THERE SINCE SIGNATURE OF PARIS ACCORDS WHICH LEFT IN PLACE ON SOUTH VIETNAMESE TERRITORY SOME 300,000 WELL-ARMED NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AFTER ALLIED WITHDRAWAL. "THIS REALITY", SAID BUU, "HAS CAUSED VARIOUS PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PROBLEM OF PERSONAL SECURITY OF CVT MILITANTS" IN THIS REGARD, BUU RECALLED ASSASSINATION LAST FEBRUARY OF CAO VAN NANG, VICE PRESIDENT OF CVN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

3. BUU EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PEACE AND SECURITY WOULD FINALLY BE ESTABLISHED IN VIETNAM - A HOPE WHICH, HE SAID, IS FAR FROM BEING REALIZED TODAY. BUU ADDED THAT THE CVT'S
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EFFORT IS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRULY

DEMOCRATIC REGIME - ONE WHICH WOULD CONFORM TO THE POPULAR WILL AND WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE EXISTENCE OF A GENUINELY FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

4. COMMENT: BERGERON HAS BEEN PESSIMISTIC ALL ALONG ABOUT SOUTH VIETNAM, TAKING THE POSITION THAT TENACITY AND DETERMINATION OF NORTH VIETNAM WILL PREVAIL AT THE END. BUU'S STATEMENTS WOULD, IF ANYTHING, REINFORCE BERGERON'S GLOOMY OUTLOOK AND HE SAID AS MUCH TO LABATT ON 13 SEPT.

5. BERGERON, HOWEVER, IS PLEASED BY PROSPECT OF BUU'S DISAFFILIATION FROM WCL AND USED MEETING OF 11 SEPT. TO TRY PERSUADE BUU TO AFFILIATE WITH ICFTU SOON. BERGERON LOOKS TO BUU AS MUCH NEEDED ALLY IN ICFTU CIRCLES, WHERE FORCE OUVRIERE RECENTLY HAS FOUND ITSELF SOMEWHAT ISOLATED. IRWIN

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